

REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

Currently in the case, after amendment, claims 1 - 7 are pending and rejected.

This Amendment responds to the aforementioned Office Action, wherein the claims as originally presented were rejected under Title 35 of United States Code, §§102 & 103. The Examiner's remarks have been carefully considered and, in view of the cited art, the claims which have amended to more particularly point out the distinctly claimed what Applicants regard as the subject matter of this present invention, it is sincerely believed that the claims which remain in the instant case patentably distinguish over all the prior art references. It is respectfully requested that this Application be re-examined in view of the following remarks, that the rejections be withdrawn, and that allowable subject matter be identified.

The points raised by the Examiner in the written office action will be responded to in the order they were discussed by the Examiner in the Office Action.

In paragraph 1-4, the Examiner rejected claims 1 & 7 under 35 U.S.C. § 102 over U.S. Patent 6,695,707 to Fernandez entitled "AMUSEMENT RAMP STRUCTURE". The Fernandez patent discloses a hinged structure which is built for multiple unit storage (as opposed to Applicant's claimed invention of a ramp system which can be broken into smaller segments for packing of an individual

ramp). Further, Fernandez does not provide a stressed, stable structure. The Fernandez structure not only fails to include a ramp which can break down, but also has a support leg which is not otherwise angularly fixed to the ramp by structural fixation, but instead requires webbing straps 42 to enable the structure to stand up. Each time a skater uses the ramp, the webbing 42 is stretched, and "gives". This is deleterious to training as it fails to give the user a consistency between different ramps and even on the same ramp where a strap is substituted.

Claim 1 has been amended to emphasize the free-standing relationship between the deck and ramp. The nature of the hinged relationship is further emphasized by the requirement that the connections between leg, deck, rail and ramp form a free-standing structure.

Since Fernandez lacks these aspects, and since Fernandez neither limits the angle between his ramp and rail and cannot form a free standing structure between his ramp, rail and deck elements, claim 1 as amended distinguishes over the cited references.

Claim 7 is in condition for allowance both due to the allowability of claim 1 and because (1) the structure of Fernandez is a wall grid and not a leg, (2) the structure of Fernandez is attached to the central hinge, and not to the deck.

In paragraphs 5-7, the Examiner rejected claim 2 under 35

U.S.C. § 103 over U.S. Patent 6,695,707 to Fernandez with regard to the structure dimension of claim 2. The ramp curvature is not simply a matter of design choice, particularly given the fixed angular relationship and free standing nature of claim 1. Therefore, claim 2 is believed to be in condition for allowance both because of the allowability of claim 1, and in its own right as having a constant angular radius.

In paragraph 8-9, the Examiner rejected claims 3 - 6 under 35 U.S.C. § 103 over U.S. Patent 6,695,707 to Fernandez in view of U.S. Patent No 6,430,769 to Allen entitled "WHEELCHAIR RAMP WITH KEYWAY JOINT." entitled AMUSEMENT RAMP STRUCTURE". The key to this structure is best seen in Figure 8 as having an internal member having externally protruding structures, which limitingly engage a pair of hinge members having internal structures positioned to engage the external structures of the additional (third) internal member. By setting a series of lands, the internal member serves to limit the angular relationship of the hinge by **creating torsion on the internal member by opposite pressure from the two opposing outer hinge members.** The use of this type of structure is appreciated for a lightweight, contained wheel chair ramp which must be folded between a carry position and a deployed position.

However the structure of the structure of the invention is both different and better, for what it is intended to do. (1)

The structure of the invention is designed to enable dis assembly and piece by piece breakdown and re-assembly, Allen (and Allen with Fernandez) does not. Why is this important? An EXTREME sports ramp must WITHSTAND (without deformation) the punishment a professional can mete out to it, BOTH WITH REGARD TO DOWNWARD FORCE AND LATERAL FORCE on level ground, no matter how many times it is broken down and re-assembled. The wheel chair ramp of allen must only be strong enough for (as described in the specification) a "two man" wheelchair to roll across it once. The ramp of Allen may buckle, may deform and may displace, but it need only not break in its function to get the wheelchair across.

(2) The hinge and compression technique and structure of the claimed invention insures that the compression is even and distributed in order to enable significant pressure to be brought to bear from an expanded linear contact AGAINST the shear on hinge, rather than THROUGH a three part hinge.

(3) In general, although the structures of Fernandez and Allen look similar, they are distinct. Fernandez has an open floppy hinge and is dependent upon the straps 42, or else the structure would collapse. Allen has an internal 3 piece hinge which limits folding. Neither provide the stable force distribution of the claimed invention. Neither provide the ability to break down easily in accord with the claimed invention. In fact, Fernandez teaches multiple stacking of the

non-disassembled structure, as would be the case in a large scale operation with multiple ramps, only. The break down ability of the claimed invention serves both large scale and individual user applications.

Fernandez is not properly combinable with Allen because (1) they are for different arts, (2) function differently, (3) give different advantages, (4) Fernandez teaches against breakdown and multi-piece stowage, and the structure of Allen teaches AGAINST dis-assembly. Further (5) any combination of Fernandez and Allen would not be sturdy and workable, AND completing the hinge assembly of Fernandez down along the ramp would not be workable (Fernandez can construct his strapped triangle only on one three rigid structure triangle).

If the Fernandez structure were to adopt some form of internal structure as in Allen, such a structure would be horrible to dis-assemble and would not dis-assembly beyond the two main pieces. Further, the cited references simply do not show a hinge arrangement where the compression force occurs displaced from the side of the structure which is hinged, to the other side of the ramp.

As a result, it is believed that the claims which remain in the case 1-7 are in condition for allowance.

Attorney for Applicant notes the absense of any objections to the drawings and therefore assumes that the drawings have been

accepted as formal by the Examiner.

The Examiner is invited to telephone Applicant's Attorney at the number below between the hours of 1:00 p.m. and 6:00 p.m. Eastern Standard Time, if such will advance this case.

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"EXPRESS MAIL" MAILING LABEL NUMBER: EV 329 193 053 US

DATE OF DEPOSIT: **November 30, 2004**

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